

September, 2026



Sunday, September 27, 2026

♪ ♪ **SFAC Accordions Live!** ♪ ♪

The Noel - Hubbard Duo:

Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard

THE SFAC "JAM BAND" WILL GATHER
BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Exact change appreciated

Youth free with parent

Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard

The Noel-Hubbard Duo



The Noel-Hubbard Duo brings energy, versatility, and artistry to every performance. **Richard Noel** is an innovative digital accordionist whose custom programming on the digital accordion allows him to move seamlessly across nearly any musical style. His YouTube channel, **BakersfieldAccordion**, has earned more than ten million views, showcasing dynamic arrangements ranging from film themes to classical favorites and contemporary standards.

Janice Hubbard had a 35-year career with the internationally acclaimed children's music group [Parachute Express](http://www.stephenmichaelschwartz.com/parachute-express-intro) (www.stephenmichaelschwartz.com/parachute-express-intro), performing across the United States and around the world to enthusiastic audiences. She brings expressive vocals, rhythmic percussion, and broad stylistic range to the duo.

With their combined skills there are few limits to what this duo can do.

Together, they weave instrumental virtuosity and vocal warmth through swing, rock, folk, country, Latin selections, and music from around the world. Based in Ventura, California, the Noel-Hubbard Duo performs for weddings, anniversaries, club events, festivals, retirement communities, and house concerts delighting audiences with creative arrangements and an engaging stage presence. They have a weekly Sunday afternoon engagement at the Greek Restaurant at Ventura Harbor where they have built a loyal following of patrons who appreciate the duo's unique approach to music.

*The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization [EIN 94-3148553] whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at www.sfaccordionclub.com*

2026 Cotati Accordion Festival Highlights

By Pamela Tom

2026 Friday Fundraiser at Church of the Oaks

Friday night, the eve of the CAF, as usual, kicked off with a fundraising concert to support the Cotati Accordion Student Scholarship (CASS) at the Church of the Oaks Social Hall (about a block away from La Plaza Park). A repertoire of light classical, standards, and original compositions performed by four invited artists (left to right: Dr. Matt Cooper & Chris Boris, Mike Zampiceni, Stas Venglevski) delighted the full house of attendees.



Volpi's

SFAC members traditionally hang out at Volpi's Italian Restaurant in Petaluma on CAF eve for dinner and playing accordion music. Photos below, left to right: Lou DiMaggio; Stas Venglevski, **Dr. Monica Ambalal**, Dr. Matt Cooper, **Chris Boris** & Dave Noferi; Sunday night jammin' in Volpi's backroom Speakeasy **Mike Zampiceni**, **Joseph Martin**, Dr. Matt Cooper, **Chris Boris**.



SFAC student member Future Accordion Stars on stage Sunday morning at CAF: Jennifer, Annabelle, Mackenzie, Evan



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Peter Swanson,
recipient of \$500 SFAC
Scholarship Award 2026



Paul & Joseph joined the Lady of Spain-a-Ring



Joseph Martin leading the Jam Tent

Full report on CASS Scholarship Student Competition
will appear in the October Newsletter

Cibo (by Robert Cooperstein)

The after-party at Cibo Rustico Pizzeria in Santa Rosa is always an extraordinary event. I wish I had taken more pictures, but I didn't. This year it was hosted serendipitously by a singer whom the restaurant had booked in place of Steve Albini, who is usually there for this event but had a conflict this year. It took me a while to realize Carlo was "real" – not lip synching to karaoke. He kept things moving and was able to convince a few people to come up and play for us who did not seem so-inclined.



Sergei and Maria Teleshev
with Cory Pesaturo (center)



Cory with Leah Zager



Carlo Solivan

Singer / Entertainer / DJ

(707) 703-7951

charlessolivan@gmail.com

Venmo:@Charles-Solivan



Club member **Sam Reider** played for the SFAC just a few months ago, so it was a pleasure to see him again on the Cotati main stage alongside drummer Scott Amendola & guitarist Jim Campilongo. Playing together as part of the quartet named Spaghetti, we have to wonder if the band's name was inspired by Jim's occasionally twangy, Morricone-esque guitar stylings.



Continued on next page ...



The Anand Joseph family, Church of the Oaks, Cotati



A deservedly proud moment for Lou DiMaggio as Scott Goree, CAF Executive Producer & Director (right) presents the 2026 CAF Honorary Director award



Lou DiMaggio & Pamela Tom selfie behind stage after he received his award



Steve Mobia, SFAC Event Photographer



Wonderful weather and turnout at this year's Cotatifest

Photo Credits: Antonetta Aruldass, Colette Ogata and Pamela Tom



R.I.P. Mr. Frank Venturelli, Accordionist



Frank Venturelli, long-time Club member, passed away in August at 100 years of age. He left behind a legacy of family, music, and entrepreneurial success. Born in Oakland and raised in San Mateo, Frank developed a lifelong passion for music at age 12 when he first picked up the accordion, a treasured instrument he would play for nearly nine decades to bring joy to everyone around him. Frank will be remembered for his intelligence, genuine nature, kindness, cleverness, humor, and unmistakable sense of individuality. He had a wonderful smile and a distinctive quirkiness that made him uniquely Frank. Until last year, Frank regularly entertained his friends and colleagues at San Mateo's Sterling Court with Sunday accordion performances.

His generosity to his Club lives on through his donations of a unique Accorgan accordion, Iorio system, and his beloved Colombo accordion. Professionally, Frank was a visionary businessman who founded and operated **Venturelli TV** for over 50 years and co-founded **CerVent Cable** during the early development of Foster City.

Above all, Frank was a devoted family man who spent nearly 70 years married to his true partner, Lena, and took immense pride in his children, Debbie and David, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Known for his distinctive smile, humor, and individual spirit, Frank brought people together until his final days, and it is comforting to know that Frank and Lena are together again.

Adapted from an [obituary](#) published by Cypress Lawn Funeral Home



Cotati's Friday Night Dinner at Volpi's Restaurant

By Joseph Martin

For the past 12 years there has been a dinner the Friday night before the Saturday morning opening of the Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF).

This year 22 people dined at Petaluma's Volpi's, sharing their love of the accordion and enjoying great Italian food. Some



of the people who came played their accordions and did a fantastic job entertaining the crowd. **Lou DiMaggio** (pictured left) at 95, and 2026 Honorary CAF Director, played amazingly and even did a triple bellows shake like the pro that he is. Mario Pedone (originally from Italy but now living in Texas) played some beautiful Italian songs. Also playing were **Mike Zampiceni** and **Joseph Martin**.

The Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship director, Dave Noferi, brought an additional 14 people to Volpi's. His dinner guests consisted of the performers, instructors, and judges for the CASS scholarship that awards prize money to deserving students. Next year we are going to join groups in the main dining room and literally take over Volpi's with music and laughter.

The **2027 CAF will be August 21-22, 2027**. Dinner on-your-own occurs August 20, 2027 at Volpi's Italian Restaurant in Petaluma (7 PM) immediately after the Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship Fundraiser concert at Church of the Oaks (4-6 PM in Cotati). Support the kids and plan to attend the fundraiser concert (free admission, donation greatly appreciated). Then join us on Friday for dinner and get revved up for the CAF weekend.



SFAC members gather each afternoon of the Cotati Accordion Festival for a group photo alongside the Jim Boggio Statue. Thanks to Steve Mobia, photographer, for taking the Saturday and Sunday SFAC members' group photographs.



Accordion Ambassador Adventures

By Pamela Tom

Seattle Accordion Social: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 6020 Beacon Ave. S., Seattle, WA

- ♦ Oct. 4 **Bonnie Birch Trio** – “Beyond Bavarian”
- ♦ Dec. 6 **Bonnie Birch & Friends** – “Holiday Sizzle”



Maria Telesheva – “The Shape-Shifting Sounds of the Accordion” video (recorded at Play@TED May 2026 in New York, NY) was [posted](#) on August 26, 2026. In the video she talks about her introduction to the accordion and skillfully performs *Prelude and Fugue in C minor* by J.S. Bach and *Moment Musicaux* by Franz Schubert (8:05 min) www.ted.com/talks/maria_telesheva_the_shape_shifting_sounds_of_the_accordion



First Annual Festa Italiana

Penn Grove Park, 2026 Main St. Penn Grove, CA 11 AM – 4 PM, October 17, 2026.

Mark your calendar for gelato, sfingi, lasagna, and good ol' Italian street music.

Sheri Mignano Crawford (accordionist) and Gus Garelick (mandolinist) will perform in the Gazebo in the afternoon.

SF Banjo Band Welcomes Two New Accordionists

by Joseph Martin



The SFBB welcomed two new accordion players on August 1st at Molloy's Tavern in South San Francisco. Roy Zheng, a SFAC Board Member, and Harshini Jayaram, who has played with the SFBB before, both played with regular accordionist Joseph Martin at the August performance.

Having three accordions in the Banjo Band gave it a full rich sound, and many people commented on how great it was to have additional players. Though the SFBB is primarily banjos, the other instruments truly fill out and enhance the songs.

Some of the songs played that day included *Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone*, *Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight*, *Armed Forces Medley*, *Won't You Come*



Home Bill Bailey, *Beer Barrel Polka*, and many old favorites. The audience is given song books, so that they can sing along with the band. John Clooney, banjoist, gave a special heart-warming rendition of *Old Bones*.

Joseph has been with the Banjo Band for almost 2 years now and really enjoyed playing the old songs with them. Roy and Harshini did a fantastic job, playing with

great enthusiasm and talent. If you are interested in playing with the SF Banjo Band, contact Joseph Martin (josephmac50@gmail.com) for details.

Membership Report

By Robert Cooperstein



SFAC members, please join me in welcoming **Ernesto Aguilar** to the Club! In his own words, Ernesto writes "I am a new learner of the accordion, and am attempting to play my 12-button bass accordion, though not as well yet. I live in San Francisco, but I'm originally from Houston, Texas, which has its own rich history of Tex-Mex accordion."

Our other new members are **Evelyn & Sienna Huang**, of San Mateo. Sienna is 7 years old and may be the accordionist here – we will find out!

Within a few days, you should receive my first request to renew your membership in the SFAC for 2027. You will be able to renew either online or by mailing a check. The several individuals who are already paid in full until renewal year 2027 have been notified in advance of this first request that they need not renew. Whether you've been with us for decades or are just starting to squeeze your first few chords, thank you for making the SFAC such a vibrant, musical family. Here's to another wonderful year of music, friendship, and celebration ahead!

SF Accordion Club Member Raises Student Scholarship Monies



SFAC member **Joseph Martin** has raised \$530 dollars for the Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship Fund coordinated by Dave Noferi.

Joseph created Jam books and flash drives to sell to grateful Cotati Jam players. "These Jam books make it easy for people to practice during the year and come to the Cotati Jam Tent to play the music with others at the Festival" says Joseph. The books are over 420 pages and cover a wide variety of genres. The flash drive is iPad-ready for use in **forScore** or other PDF management software products. There is an absolute move toward digital formats for music and this makes it so easy to create and update these kinds of jam books.

If you are interested in a flash drive of the Golden State Accordion Club Jam Book email Joseph at josephmac50@gmail.com for more information.

SFAC Members Perform at the NCAS Meeting

Submitted by Pamela Tom



Several Central Valley based SFAC members (**Steve Marshall, Jim Shoemaker, Taffy Steffen and Pamela Tom**) attended the August meeting of the Northern California Accordion Society that convenes on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 2 - 4 PM at 6365 Douglas Blvd. (Lutheran Church of the Resurrection) in Granite Bay, CA (Placer County). Taffy and Jim (third and second from the right of the photo) participated in the jam session and also performed solos. Jim played *That's Amore* while Taffy entertained with three tunes: *Let's Get Away From It All*, *Far Away Places*, and *La Vie en Rose*.

The Fratellanza Club Welcomes New Accordion Player

The Fratellanza Club in Oakland has welcomed accordionist **Joseph Martin** as a new member. Founded in 1932 to foster fellowship, moral well-being, and community, it started as an Italian Club but now welcomes everyone. The Club offers great meals to their members, celebrating all kinds of events, including birthdays, Western Nights, Italian Nights, Gold Tournaments and more. They also do a lot of community work giving out scholarships. The Club remains a pillar of the East Bay Italian heritage and remains a wonderful community institution supporting many facets of Oakland and the greater East Bay. Accordionist George Campi is also a member and has played for many of the Club's events over the years.

Pictured is Joseph playing mostly Italian songs during a cocktail hour before the Men's Birthday Dinner. Some of the songs played were *I Have But One Heart*, *Il Sirio*, *La Romanina*, and *Return to Me*. Dinner included salad, crusty roll, salami, polenta, hot and mild Italian sausage in a great red sauce, and wine.



**Next Jam is
October 7th**
The First Wednesday
of the Month 6-8pm

**Come and Join Us for the
East Bay Accordion Jam**

We are going to be jamming...

**Now on the First Wednesday
October 7th - 6-8pm**

at the
Fratellanza Club- Oakland
1140 66th St, Oakland, CA 94608

(FREE parking in the lot - Limited FREE Parking on Street)
Bring your music stand
Josephmac50@gmail.com

New Location & Time for East Bay Accordion Jam Meetup

The Fratellanza Club (1140 66th St., Oakland, CA) is now sponsoring the East Bay Accordion Jam meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, 6-8 PM. Join us at the Club on October 7, 2026! We will have time to practice, play & share our love of the accordion.

Questions?

Contact Joseph Martin
(Josephmac50@gmail.com).

🌀 Appreciation for our Donors! 🌀

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2025 – September 2026) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Anthony Bologna, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Tony David, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Sarah Gronquist, Heidi Hansen, Lorraine Inaudi, Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, John Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora Mazzara, Steve Mobia, Karen Marie Mokrzycki, Sabrina Moyle, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Cat Reilly, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sárkány, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, Andrew Zheng, Roy Zheng.

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We so appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.



The Mayflower set sail September 6, 1620. Ship's Master and notable accordionist Christopher Jones sadly cautioned the elated dolphins they could not accompany the ship to the New World to become Pilgrim Fathers. But they were relieved to learn that the voyage of the Fortune would take place November 1621, one year after the Mayflower - and would also feature an accordionist.

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President, Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President,
(510) 220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510) 207-6009, drcoop@sbcglobal.net

Elaine Cooperstein (510) 921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

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Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Roy Zheng roycraft3@gmail.com

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Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz (*and credited contributors each issue*)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound: Ken Schwartz, Roy Zheng

Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

San Francisco

- ◆ **Sam Reider** www.samreidermusic.com
sam@samreidermusic.com

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber**
www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ **Bonnie Birch*** www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com
(805) 895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

Accordion Happenings

◆ Gordon Kohl's Accordion Workshop Camp

October 30 - November 1, 2026; See Page 7
Beautiful Alpine, CA - Just 20 miles East of San Diego
Information: gkohl5890@gmail.com, 619-395-0454

◆ National Accordion Association 2027 Convention

March 17 - 20, North Texas Area
Information: Accordions.com/NAA

Online/Virtual Offerings:

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)
Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Members -

If you know of an accordiocentric festival or event in 2026 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact info@sfaccordionclub.org



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

Supporting the
San Francisco Accordion Club

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NATIONAL ACCORDION ASSOCIATION
2027 ACCORDION CONVENTION
MARCH 17 - 20TH, 2027
NORTH TEXAS AREA

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1700 Rodeo Drive
Mesquite, Texas

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

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Englewood, FL 34224

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ♦ *September 27* The Noel-Hubbard Duo: Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard, Chetcuti Community Center!
- ♦ *October 18* East Bay Accordion Circle - Piedmont High School - Student Center, Building B
- ♦ *November 2026* NO SFAC MEETING — Happy Thanksgiving!

SFAC Sunday Program:

September 27, 2026

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

The Noel -Hubbard Duo:
Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard

\$10 members / \$15 non-members
Youth free with parent

Chetcuti doors open at 2:00 PM, performances
begin approximately 2:15 PM

See email for link to online streaming

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

RSVP for details info@sfaccordionclub.com



Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae

Plenty of free parking in Library lot

Accessible location

Close to public transit (<1 mile from BART)

<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoAccordionClub/>

